Yamunanagar and the Learned Counsels for the petitioners to attend a meeting in the office of Learned Additional Solicitor General at New Delhi on 9.8.2002 to work out the details of the solution in relation to various issues involved in the present court case. This case is listed for further hearing on 20.8.2002.

Tea extract injections for Cataract

2667. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea extract injections help in delaying the onset of cataract;

(b) if so, the research undertaken in this regard especially in the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB); and

(c) the action proposed to propagate the findings for preventing blindness especially in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Tea has been shown to have anti-oxidative property and thus may help prevent cataract formation.

(b) Experiments carried out on rats at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) indicate cataract progression was significantly slowed down following injection of extracts of black and green tea. Green tea appears to have better effect than the black tea. Treatment with laser is useful in some cases of glaucoma, retinal diseases and post-operative opacity following cataract surgery.

(c) Effect of tea on formation or progression of cataract in humans has not yet been established. Appropriate action will be taken only after usefulness of tea in preventing progression of cataract is established.

Oral Insulin

2668. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oral insulin has been invented under the supervision of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research,

(b) whether it has been tested on human beings; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?